



June 13, 2012

Richard Parkin
Management Lead
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

Dear Mr. Parkin:

On behalf of the sportfishing industry, the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) thanks you for conducting the recent public hearings on the draft Bristol Bay watershed assessment. From all accounts, there was remarkable support shown for EPA's work in Bristol Bay.

ASA is the nation's recreational fishing industry trade association, representing sportfishing manufacturers, distributors, retailers, media and angler advocacy groups, as well as the interests of America's 60 million recreational anglers. ASA safeguards and promotes the social, economic and conservation values of sportfishing in America, which result in a \$125 billion-a-year impact on the nation's economy and a more than \$800 million annual impact on Alaska's economy. ASA also represents more than 600,000 individuals through its angler advocacy initiative, KeepAmericaFishing™.

The EPA and its staff have done a tremendous job reviewing existing information about the region and the potential impacts of large-scale mining on salmon. In fact, it appears to us that sufficient information exists today for EPA to protect Bristol Bay.

Your team needs to be commended for employing a robust process that clearly met its mark in encouraging and acquiring meaningful public input. These are the most extensive hearings that have ever been held in the region on mining, and the assessment lends itself to easy review and input.

ASA has been involved in this issue for several years already, and we will continue to be involved as the process moves forward.

ASA is aware that the Pebble Limited Partnership (PLP) and a few others have requested an extension of time on the comment period. We disagree with the need for any extension, and urge the EPA to stick to its time schedule. The time frame and period for input equals or exceeds public review and comment periods provided by the State of Alaska on important issues in Bristol Bay.

Please stand firm and complete the watershed assessment without further delay. The continued uncertainty caused by the interminable process PLP and the State allow for the proposed Pebble Mine harms our interests. It is time to get this done. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gordon C. Robertson".

Gordon Robertson
Vice President

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